

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 ACDA-07 SCCT-01

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R 250823Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1303
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 14140

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SP, IS, MX, PDIP, MO, VT, UNGA, GW
SUBJECT: VISIT OF SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA TO
BONN: POLITICAL ASPECTS

BEGIN SUMMARY: WE HAVE RECEIVED A BRIEFING ON THE
POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE AUGUST 21-22 VISIT OF SPANISH
FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA TO BONN. (FOR THE ECONOMIC
ASPECTS, SEE SEPTTEL). ACCORDING TO OUR FOREIGN OFFICE
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SOURCE, THE GERMAN AND SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTERS SPENT

A GOOD DEAL OF THEIR TIME TOGETHER IN A TOUR D'HORIZON OF WORLD PROBLEMS. AMONG THE MAJOR SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WERE THE POSSIBILITY OF SPAIN'S ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MEXICO AND ISRAEL, SPAIN'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., MOROCCO AND THE HOLY SEE, AND THE FORTHCOMING UNITED NATIONS SESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ACTING COUNTRY DIRECTOR FOR MEDITERRANEAN AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN OFFICE (BLANKENSTEIN) TOLD US THAT THE GROUND FOR THE VISIT HAD BEEN LAID ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO WHEN FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER CONGRATULATED OREJA ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS FOREIGN MINISTER AND INVITED HIM TO COME TO BONN. SINCE THE VISIT WAS NOT AN OFFICIAL ONE, PROTOCOL WAS KEPT TO A MINIMUM. IT WAS A WORKING VISIT, ALTHOUGH THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER DID FIND TIME TO TAKE A BOAT TRIP ON THE RHINE.

2. THE TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THEIR DELEGATIONS HAD A TWO-HOUR WORKING SESSION TOGETHER WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY A HALF-HOUR PRIVATE DISCUSSION. THE PRIVATE DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WAS TRULY THAT; FOR OREJA SPEAKS GOOD GERMAN AND NO INTERPRETER WAS REQUIRED. OREJA'S KNOWLEDGE OF GERMAN STEMS FROM A YEAR HE SPENT IN BONN AS A STUDENT SOME TWENTY YEARS AGO.

3. ACCORDING TO BLANKENSTEIN, NEITHER THE ECONOMIC NOR THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN SPAIN IS AS DIFFICULT AS IT IS IN ITALY AND PORTUGAL. THEREFORE, THE MINISTERS DID NOT HAVE ANY PARTICULARLY ACUTE PROBLEMS TO DISCUSS AND WERE ABLE TO DEVOTE MUCH OF THEIR TIME TO GENERAL TOUR D'HORIZON. THE MAIN GERMAN PURPOSE IN EXTENDING THE INVITATION WAS TO ESTABLISH PERSONAL CONTACT WITH THE NEW SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER AND TO GET FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE INTENTIONS OF THE NEW SPANISH GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO BLANKENSTEIN, THERE ARE NO BILATERAL PROBLEMS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES AND NO NOTEWORTHY BILATERAL ISSUES TO DISCUSS.

4. OREJA BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF SPAIN'S RELATIONS
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WITH MOROCCO. ACCORDING TO BLANKENSTEIN, THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD SAID THAT THE SPANISH SAHARA HAD BEEN A BURDEN WHICH SPAIN WAS LUCKY TO HAVE SHED. DUE TO SPANISH INVESTMENT IN ITS FORMER SAHARAN COLONY, HOWEVER, SPAIN WAS FORCED TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH

MOROCCO WHICH HAD TAKEN OVER CONTROL OF THE AREA WHERE
THE LARGEST SPANISH INVESTMENT LIES.

5. THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER HAD DISCUSSED
RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. IN SOME DETAIL. HE MENTIONED
THE "GOOD RESULTS" OF THE U.S.-SPANISH TREATY, NOTING
THAT THE TREATY ALSO MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR SPAIN TO
DRAW CLOSER TO NATO. BLANKENSTEIN NOTED THAT THERE HAD
BEEN NO OTHER REFERENCE TO SPAIN'S POTENTIAL MEMBERSHIP
IN NATO UNLESS THE SUBJECT HAD BEEN RAISED DURING THE
PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE TWO MINISTERS.

6. OREJA SPOKE OF SPAIN'S DESIRE TO DEEPEN ITS CONTACTS
WITH LATIN AMERICA. IN PARTICULAR, HE MENTIONED SPAIN'S
DESIRE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MEXICO.
THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE

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IMPOSSIBLE TO TAKE THIS STEP AS LONG AS ECHEVERRIA
ALVAREZ WAS PRESIDENT OF MEXICO, BUT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE
AFTER HE HAD DEPARTED OFFICE AND AFTER THE SPANISH
ELECTIONS HAD TAKEN PLACE.

7. OREJA ALSO SPOKE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. ACCORD-
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ING TO BLANKENSTEIN, THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER INDI-
CATED THAT THIS SUBJECT WAS NOT UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDER-
ATION.

8. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER BROUGHT UP THE POSSIBILITY
OF SPAIN'S ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
ISRAEL. ACCORDING TO BLANKENSTEIN, FOREIGN MINISTER
GENSCHER URGED OREJA NOT TO FEAR THE ARABS. THE FRG
HAD FACED THE SAME PROBLEM OF ARAB OPPOSITION WHEN IT
ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL BUT HAD
GONE AHEAD ANYWAY. GENSCHER DID URGE THE SPANISH
FOREIGN MINISTER TO BE CAREFUL OF HOW SPAIN TAKES SUCH
A STEP, NOTING THAT THE ADVERSE ARAB REACTION HAD BEEN
MORE SEVERE THAN NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE CLUMSY MANNER
IN WHICH GERMANY HAD ACTED. BLANKENSTEIN STATED THAT
THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S REPLY TO GENSCHER'S
URGINGS HAD ONLY BEEN TO NOTE THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
WITH ISRAEL WAS NOT A QUESTION OF MAIN CONCERN TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN WHICH DID NOT WANT TO HAVE ANY
DIFFICULTIES WITH THE ARABS.

9. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER ALSO DISCUSSED THE TWO
UNGA AGENDA ITEMS OF MAJOR INTEREST TO THE FRG: INTER-
NATIONAL TERRORISM AND THE WORLD COURT ON HUMAN RIGHTS.
AFTER LISTENING TO THE GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S

EXPLANATION OF THE FRG'S PROPOSED INITIATIVE CONCERNING

HOSTAGES, OREJA PROMISED FULL SPANISH SUPPORT. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER NOTED SPAIN'S OWN INTERNAL PROBLEM WITH TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. INsofar AS THE WORLD COURT ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS CONCERNED, OREJA TOLD GENSCHER THAT HE HAD RECENTLY BEEN EMPOWERED TO SIGN THE UN CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH HE EXPECTED TO DO SHORTLY.

10. OREJA BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT OF RELATIONS WITH THE VATICAN, NOTING THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN DISCUSSING A REVISION OF ITS CONCORDAT WITH THE HOLY SEE FOR SOME TEN YEARS. BECAUSE OF THE DIFFICULT AND COMPLEX PROBLEMS WHICH SUCH A REVISION ENTAILED, IT HAD NOW BEEN DECIDED TO REVISE THE CONCORDAT BY MEANS OF

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SEVERAL SEPARATE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN SPAIN AND THE HOLY SEE. THE FIRST SUCH AGREEMENT HAD BEEN SIGNED SOME TWO WEEKS AGO. UNDER ITS TERMS, THE SPANISH CHIEF OF STATE NO LONGER HAD THE RIGHT TO "SUGGEST" NAMES OF PROSPECTIVE BISHOPS TO THE HOLY SEE AND THE HOLY SEE AGREED THAT THE CLERGY WOULD BE SUBJECT TO NORMAL COURT JURISDICTION RATHER THAN BEING TRIED BY ECCLESIASTICAL COURTS. ACCORDING TO BLANKENSTEIN, THE SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER DESCRIBED THIS AGREEMENT AS AN IMPORTANT INDICATION OF SPAIN'S DESIRE TO SEPARATE CHURCH AND STATE.

11. CONCLUSION: IN SUMMING UP THE DISCUSSIONS, BLANKENSTEIN NOTED THAT THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE MEETING WAS VERY GOOD. HE DESCRIBED THIS IN PART TO THE FACT THAT THERE WERE NO REAL BILATERAL ISSUES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, IN PART TO THE FINE WEATHER WHICH PREVAILED DURING THE VISIT, AND IN PART TO THE FACT THAT OREJA KNOWS BONN, KNOWS GERMANY, AND SPEAKS GERMAN. IN PASSING, BLANKENSTENZKED THAT THE PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD BE VISITING BONN SHORTLY AND THAT A VISIT BY THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WAS IN THE CARDS. RATHER EARLY, HE REMARKED THAT THE DISCUSSIONS SEEMED TO HAVE MORE TO DO WITH THE INTERNAL GERMAN POLITICAL SCENE AND THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS THAN WITH THE RESOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS.
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